Boston Public Library

We Are Pride

Books about the LGBTQ+ Experience

2021 | Booklist for Adults, Teens, and Children

CHILDREN'S

Ana on the Edge

By A.J. Sass

Figure skater Ana-Marie Jin is struggling with finances and a much-hated "princess" competition theme. When a new trans friend mistakes her for a boy, she begins to discover her own nonbinary identity.

J FICTION SASS A

Cattywampus

By Ash Van Otterloo

Nothing makes Delpha McGill's skin crawl more than rules, but magic is strictly off-limits in Howler's Hollow. Naturally, she's itching to use her family's secret book of hexes to banish her mama's money troubles. She just has to keep it quiet as the grave.

J FICTION VANOTTER A

A High Five for Glenn Burke

By Phil Bildner

When Silas does a school presentation on former Major League Baseball player Glenn Burke, it's more than a report on the inventor of the high five. Burke was a Black gay baseball player in the 1970s—and for Silas, the presentation is his own first step toward coming out as gay.

J FICTION BILDNER P

I'm Not a Girl: A Transgender Story

By Maddox Lyons and Jessica Verdi

No matter how many times Hannah tells the people in his life that he is not a girl, no one seems to listen. After Hannah learns the term "transgender" from some friends, he's finally able to understand his feelings about his own identity.

J PICTURE LYONS M

Kenzie Kickstarts a Team

By Kit Rosewater

In this new illustrated series for middle-grade readers, best friends Kenzie (aka Kenzilla) and Shelly (aka Bomb Shell) start their own roller derby team and chase their dreams.

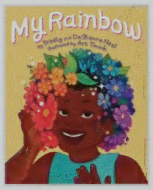
J FICTION ROSEWATE K

My Maddy

By Gayle E. Pitman

Not all parents are Mommies or Daddies—some are a little bit of both, and some are none at all! This picture book introduces us to a child's nonbinary parent—their Maddy. Includes excellent back matter and resources for caregivers and children.

J PICTURE PITMAN G



My Rainbow

By Trinity Neal and DeShanna Neal

On one quiet day in the warm, loving Neal home, playtime leads to an important realization: Trinity wants long hair like her dolls. To help her daughter fully express herself, Trinity's mother gets to work making a special wig just for Trinity.

J PICTURE NEAL T

available as an e-book
available as an audiobook
graphic novel

Pepper's Rules for Secret Sleuthing

By Briana McDonald

Pepper Blouse's penchant for sleuthing ended any hope of the girl she likes returning her feelings. Despite her decision to lay low for a while, however, she can't help but be drawn into the mystery of how her Great Aunt Florence died.

J MYSTERY MCDONALD B

Rick

By Alex Gino

Rick's never questioned much, including anything about his own identity. Now in middle school, he finds himself drawn to the Rainbow Spectrum club: a place for students of all genders and identities to gather. As Rick bonds with his new friends, he comes to learn more about himself.

J FICTION GINO A

Snapdragon

By Kat Leyh

Snap needs a favor from Jacks, the town witch, and begins helping out with her strange work. As Snap gets to know her, she realizes that Jacks may in fact have real magic—and an unlikely connection to Snap's family's past.

J GRAPHIC SNAPDRAG

Rainbow Revolutionaries: Fifty LGBTQ+ People Who Made History

By Sarah Prager

Explore the vibrantly illustrated histories of fifty pioneering LGBTQ+ people from around the world.

J BIOG HQ73 .P73 2020x

TEEN

All Boys Aren't Blue

By George M. Johnson

From getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, Johnson reflects on his experiences of the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

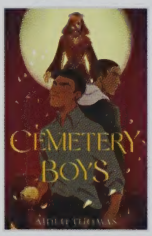
TEEN BIOG HQ76.27.A37 J644 2020

The Black Flamingo

By Dean Atta

In this novel in verse, a boy growing up in London comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen and finds his wings as a drag artist: The Black Flamingo.

TEEN FICTION ATTA D



Cemetery Boys

By Aiden Thomas

When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his true gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo by setting out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and setting it free.

TEEN FICTION THOMAS A

Elatsoe

By Darcie Little Badger

Elatsoe can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. The picture-perfect facade of her hometown masks gruesome secrets, and she must rely on her wits to protect her family.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY LITTLEBA D

Felix Ever After

By Kacen Callender

Felix Love has never been in love and is painfully aware of the irony. He desperately wants to know what it's like but secretly fears that he's one marginalization too many—Black, queer, and transgender—to ever get his own happily-ever-after.

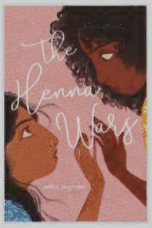
TEEN FICTION CALLENDE K

The Fire Never Goes Out: A Memoir in Pictures

By Noelle Stevenson

In a collection of essays and personal mini-comics that span eight years of her young adult life, author-illustrator Noelle Stevenson charts the highs and lows of being a creative human in the world.

TEEN GRAPHIC FIRE NEVER GOES



The Henna Wars

By Adiba Jaigirdar

Nishat's home life has been tense ever since she came out. Her parents don't believe Muslim girls should be lesbians. Meanwhile, at school, Nishat finds herself going head-to-head against her crush when they open competing henna businesses.

TEEN FICTION JAIGIRDA A

Here the Whole Time

By Vitor Martins (Translated by Larissa Helena)

When Felipe, who is very insecure about his weight, is forced to spend winter break with his long-term crush, he must face his unresolved issues head-on.

TEEN FICTION MARTINS V

I'll Be the One

By Lyla Lee

When plus-size Skye Shin auditions for a televised K-Pop competition in LA, she's determined to make it all the way and prove that fat girls really can dance, no matter what her mother says.

TEEN FICTION LEE L

Late to the Party

By Kelly Quindlen

Codi's never crashed a party, stayed out too late, or even been kissed. This summer, though, she's determined to change that. After befriending a boy in her neighborhood, Codi starts going to parties, sneaking out, and crushing on a new girl... all without telling her two best friends.

TEEN FICTION QUINDLEN K

The Magic Fish

By Trung Le Nguyen

In this beautifully illustrated, semi-autobiographical graphic novel, a young boy struggles with coming out to his parents. Can the fairy tales he checks out from the library and reads with his mother help bridge the gap between them?

TEEN GRAPHIC MAGIC FISH

Miss Meteor

By Tehlor Kay Mejia & Anna-Marie McLemore

There's never been a winner of the Miss Meteor beauty pageant who looks like Lita or Chicky, and to pull off the unlikeliest underdog story in pageant history, they're going to have to prove girls like them are more than enough—they are everything.

TEEN FICTION MEJIA T

Only Mostly Devastated

By Sophie Gonzales

Will and Ollie had a perfect summer fling, but it ended abruptly. When Ollie ends up transferring to Will's school, he is surprised that School Will and Summer Will seem to be two different people.

TEEN FICTION GONZALES S

You Should See Me in a Crown

By Leah Johnson

There's nothing Liz wants to do less than endure the mortifying experience of running for Prom Queen, but despite her fear of the spotlight, she's willing to do whatever it takes to win the title and scholarship that will get her to the college of her dreams.

TEEN FICTION JOHNSON L

EXPRESSIONS

Be Gay, Do Comics: Queer History, Memoir, and Satire from The Nib

Edited by Matt Bors

This collection of comics highlights LGBTQ+ experiences and history ranging from the American Revolution through Stonewall to today.

TEEN GRAPHIC PN6726 .B33 2020x

dayliGht

By Roya Marsh

In this collection of poems, written in protest to an absence of representation, Marsh recalls her early life and the challenges of being a butch Black woman coming of age in America.

PS3613.A76987 D39 2020

Homie

By Danez Smith

In a country overrun by violence, xenophobia, and disparity, and in a body defined by race, queerness, and diagnosis, it can be hard to survive without friends and family. Here is an anthem in poetry about the saving grace of friendship.

PS3613.A76987 D39 2020

Loving: A Photographic History of Men in Love 1850s–1950s

From the Nini-Treadwell Collection

Hundreds of moving and tender vernacular photographs taken between the years 1850 and 1950 portray the history of romantic love between men.

TR681.H65 L68 2020x

Postcolonial Love Poem

By Natalie Diaz

In a long-awaited follow-up to the award-winning *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, Diaz reflects in verse on desire and colonialism, considering bodies as both object and subject.

PS3604.I186 A6 2020x

Sweet Tea: A Play

By E. Patrick Johnson

Johnson's groundbreaking oral history, newly adapted for the stage, brings to life the recorded experiences of Black gay men born, raised, and still living in the American South.

PS3610.O339 S94 2020

available as an e-book
available as an audiobook
graphic novel

Tasty Pride: 75 Recipes and Stories from the Queer Food Community

By Jesse Szewczyk

Stories of love, pride, and acceptance—and the important role food can play in that journey—accompany the innovative yet totally doable recipes in this collection.

TX833.5 .T363 2020

The World That Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia

Edited by Aditi Angiras and Akhil Katyal

Well-known queer voices and a host of new poets from South Asia cover themes ranging from desire and loneliness to activism and family.

PN6101 .W67 2020x

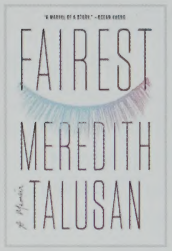
MEMOIR

Becoming a Man: The Story of a Transition

By P. Carl

For fifty years, P. Carl lived as a queer woman, building a career, a life, and a loving marriage, yet still waiting to realize himself in full. As Carl embarks on his gender transition, he takes us inside the complex shifts and questions that arise.

BIOG HQ77.8.C363 A3 2020



Fairest

By Meredith Talusan

Talusan explores the challenges of negotiating her multiple identities as a trans Filipina woman with albinism in this coming-of-age memoir.

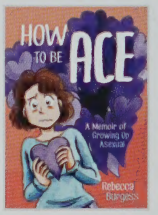
BIOG HQ77.8.T36 A3 2020

The Groom Will Keep His Name: And Other Vows I've Made About Race, Resistance, and Romance

By Matt Ortile

In his debut collection of essays about sex, identity, and more, Ortile (the founding editor of BuzzFeed Philippines) reflects on the stories he told himself on his way to achieving self-love and fulfillment.

BIOG HQ75.8.O73 A3 2020



How to Be Ace: A Memoir of Growing Up Asexual

By Rebecca Burgess

In this approachable graphic memoir, Burgess recounts her experiences of navigating adulthood and obsessive-compulsive disorder while exploring her asexual identity in a world obsessed with sex.

GRAPHIC HOW TO BE

Later: My Life at the Edge of the World

By Paul Lisicky

When Paul Lisicky arrived in Provincetown in the early 1990s, he found a place outside of time. Yet as the community is consumed by the AIDS crisis, the question arises: what might this utopia look like during a time of dystopia?

BIOG PS3562.I773 Z47 2020x

available as an e-book
available as an audiobook
graphic novel

My Autobiography of Carson McCullers

By Jenn Shapland

While working at the Harry Ransom Center, Shapland encounters the love letters of Carson McCullers and Annemarie Schwarzenbach. She recognizes herself in the letters' language but does not see McCullers as history has portrayed her.

BIOG HQ75.4.S53 A3 2020

Non-Binary Lives: An Anthology of Intersecting Identities

Edited by Kat Gupta, Meg-John Barker, Ben Vincent, and Jos Twist

Nonbinary folks share stories of how they've achieved success while integrating multiple identities: nonbinary and neurodivergent, nonbinary and pregnant, nonbinary and Quaker, and more.

HQ77.9 .N642 2020x

Officer Clemmons

By Dr. François S. Clemmons

The Grammy Award-winning artist who famously played "Officer Clemmons" on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood reflects on his life, including his embrace of his sexual orientation and his life-changing encounter with Fred Rogers.

BIOG PN2287.C54495 A3 2020x

The Times I Knew I Was Gay

By Eleanor Crewes

From her first communion to her first girlfriend, Ellie shares and illustrates her stories of growing up and coming out, one awkward encounter at a time.

TEEN GRAPHIC PN6737.C74 A3 2020x

Tomboyland: Essays

By Melissa Faliveno

Faliveno revisits her childhood in working-class Wisconsin and the paths she's traveled since, compelled by questions of womanhood, queerness, and class.

PS3606.A42768 T65 2020x

NONFICTION

Ace: What Asexuality Reveals About Desire, Society, and the Meaning of Sex

By Angela Chen

A thoughtful exploration of what it means to be asexual in a world that's obsessed with sexual attraction, and what we can all learn about desire and identity by using an ace lens to see the world.

HQ21 .C456 2020

The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America

By Eric Cervini

A meticulously researched account of Frank Kameny's decades-long struggle to combat negative, homophobic stereotypes and advance gay civil rights.

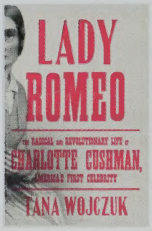
HQ75.8.K35 C47 2020

How to They/Them: A Visual Guide to Nonbinary Pronouns and the World of Gender Fluidity

By Stuart Getty

Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, always human, this 101 primer is about not only pronouns, but also gender expression and the freedom to choose how to identify.

P279 .G48 2020



Lady Romeo: The Radical and Revolutionary Life of Charlotte Cushman, America's First Celebrity

By Tana Wojczuk

Charlotte Cushman was a Shakespearean actress whose performances as Hamlet, Romeo, and Lady Macbeth became canon. Her wife immortalized her in the angel atop Central Park's Bethesda Fountain, but Charlotte Cushman has since faded from memory. Wojczuk shines a spotlight on a forgotten queer icon.

BIOG PN2287.C8 W65 2020x

Missing from the Village: The Story of Serial Killer Bruce McArthur, the Search for Justice, and the System That Failed Toronto's Queer Community

By Justin Ling

After years of investigating a serial killer in Toronto's queer community, Ling recounts his own experience documenting the disappearances of eight gay and bisexual men in his neighborhood.

Available as eBook on OverDrive

The Pink Line: Journeys Across the World's Queer Frontiers

By Mark Gevisser

An exploration of LGBTQ+ issues in the 21st century that pulls from a wide array of queer voices around the globe to comment on the socioeconomic and political motivations underlying the current struggles of queer people internationally.

HQ73 .G48 2020

Storytelling in Queer Appalachia: Imagining and Writing the Unspeakable Other

Edited by Hillery Glasby, Sherrie Gradin, and Rachael Ryerson

Voices from the region's valleys, hollers, mountains, and campuses blend personal stories with scholarly and creative examinations of living and surviving as queer in Appalachia.

HQ73.3.U62 A6778 2020

German, Jew, Muslim, Gay: The Life and Times of Hugo Marcus

By Marc David Baer

This illuminating biography of a unique, yet little-known, figure uses Marcus's own seemingly divergent identities to expand on the political, sexual, and religious scenes in post-WWII Europe.

HQ75.8.M326 A3 2020

FICTION

Bestiary

By K-Ming Chang

Mythology and intergenerational trauma intertwine as a Taiwanese American girl raised on tales of a tiger spirit who eats children's toes falls in love and mysteriously grows a tiger's tail.

FICTION CHANG K

Fiebre Tropical

By Juliana Delgado Lopera

Francisca, a Colombian teenager living in Miami, comes of age and comes out as she plunges headfirst into lust and evangelism.

FICTION DELGADOL J

Finna

By Nino Cipri

When a customer at a store that is definitely not IKEA slips through a portal to another dimension, two underpaid and recently broken-up employees have no choice but to track her across the multiverse to protect their company's bottom line.

SCIFI FANTASY CIPRI N

The House in the Cerulean Sea

By TJ Klune

The magical equivalent of a CPS caseworker is sent to investigate a remote orphanage. Ominous messages from his supervisors remind him not to trust the affectionate family of misfits, but who is the true danger: the children or the bureaucracy that keeps them locked away?

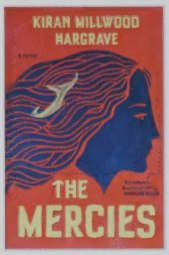
SCIFI FANTASY KLUNE T

Love After the End: An Anthology of Two-Spirit & Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction

Edited by Joshua Whitehead

These utopian stories showcase the queer futurisms of new and emerging Two-Spirit and queer Indigenous writers from across Turtle Island.

FICTION LOVE AFTER THE



The Mercies

By Kiran Millwood Hargrave

A feminist story of love, evil, and obsession, set at the edge of civilization, inspired by the real events of the Vardø storm and the 1620 witch trials.

FICTION HARGRAVE K

Murder at Pirate's Cove

By Josh Lanyon

Ellery Page has just inherited both a failing bookstore and a falling-down mansion in the quaint seaside village of Pirate's Cove. When a rival bookseller is murdered, of course handsome Police Chief Jack Carson suspects Ellery.

Available as eBook on OverDrive

Network Effect

By Martha Wells

The award-winning Murderbot series (which began with *All Systems Red*) continues as everyone's favorite genderless, asexual, misanthropic, socially anxious, and soap-opera-addicted murder machine crosses the galaxy to rescue... don't say it... a friend. *Ugh.*

SCIFI FANTASY WELLS M

available as an e-book
available as an audiobook
graphic novel

The Order of the Pure Moon Reflected in Water

By Zen Cho

In a wuxia-influenced fantasy world inspired by Malaysia during the Emergency, a bandit walks into a coffeehouse and picks a fight on behalf of the nun working as a waitress, only to be confronted with the consequences of his chivalry when she decides to join his ragtag crew.

SCIFI FANTASY CHO Z

The Prettiest Star

By Carter Sickels

Small-town Appalachia doesn't have a lot going for it, but it is where Brian is from. After AIDS claims his lover, his friends, and his future in New York, Brian returns to the place, and family, he was once so desperate to escape.

FICTION SICKELS C

Real Life

By Brandon Taylor

Introverted, Black, and queer, Wallace has distanced himself from others, but confrontations with colleagues and an encounter with a straight white college classmate conspire to fracture his defenses.

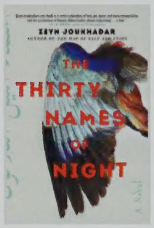
FICTION TAYLOR B

Swimming in the Dark

By Tomasz Jedrowski

Amidst first love and the violent decline of Communism, two men find themselves on opposite sides of the political divide in early 1980's Poland.

FICTION JEDROWSK T



The Thirty Names of Night

By Zeyn Joukhadar

As unprecedented numbers of birds are drawn to the New York City skies, a closeted Syrian American trans boy enlists the help of his new-found family and friends to unravel what happened to a lost artist and the rare bird his mother died trying to save.

FICTION JOUKHADA Z

We Had No Rules

By Corinne Manning

A defiant, lyrical story collection about navigating the monumental trivialities and familiar novelties of contemporary queer life.

FICTION MANNING C

The Subtweet

By Vivek Shraya

The transformative friendship between two musicians, one cis and one trans, implodes in an internet firestorm sparked by a single tweet.

FICTION SHRAYA V

ROMANCE

Bet Against Me

By Fiona Riley

Trina Lee didn't become a success in the cut-throat Boston luxury real estate market by playing nice. Her rivalry with fellow realtor Kendall Yates starts out heated... and will only get hotter when their explosive sexual chemistry is thrown into the mix.

Available as eBook on OverDrive

available as an e-book
available as an audiobook
graphic novel

Boyfriend Material

By Alexis Hall

Oliver is exactly what publicity-shy Luc needs in a boyfriend: nice, normal, *boring*. The only thing they have in common is that they're in desperate need of a fake date, so there's no risk of catching feelings for real... right?

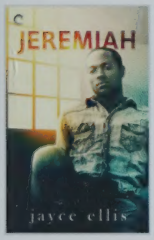
FICTION HALL A

How Do We Relationship?

By Tamifull

Miwa's first attempt at coming out to a college classmate doesn't go as she expected—Saeko reveals that she's a lesbian, too! After Miwa and Saeko decide to date, however, they discover that asking, "Do you want to go out?" is only the beginning.

TEEN GRAPHIC HOW DO WE



Jeremiah / André

By Jayce Ellis

In the first two books of the High Rise series, Jeremiah and Andre—both residents of Crestline Apartments—meet-cute with the perfect strangers who will have them thinking about happily ever after.

Available as eBook on OverDrive

The Love Study

By Kris Ripper

When Declan agrees to let Sidney, a nonbinary YouTuber who runs an advice channel, set him up on a few dates, he isn't really expecting to find true love. As it turns out, the dates are all flops, but his chemistry with Sidney is off the charts!

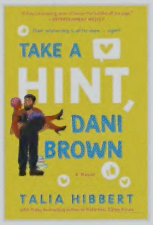
FICTION RIPPER K

Something to Talk About

By Meryl Wilsner

Former child star Jo Jones, now an influential showrunner, sees walking the red carpet as a purely work-related outing. She isn't expecting the tabloid obsession with her and her assistant that turns both their lives completely upside down.

FICTION WILSNER M



Take a Hint, Dani Brown

By Talia Hibbert

Commitment-phobic Danika Brown, a driven academic still recovering from a bad breakup with her ex-girlfriend, agrees to fake-date her friend Zafir after a video of him "rescuing" her from their office building goes viral.

FICTION HIBBERT T

Two Rogues Make a Right

By Cat Sebastian

After finding his childhood best friend deathly ill and hiding in his brother's attic, Will Sedgwick knows exactly what to do to keep Martin safe: he kidnaps him.

ROMANCE SEBASTIA C

Written in the Stars

By Alexandria Bellefleur

After the worst possible introduction, a free-spirited astrologer and an uptight actuary unexpectedly find themselves fake-dating their way to true love.

FICTION BELLEFLE A

Boston Public Library

We Are Pride

Books about the LGBTQ+ Experience

2021 | Booklist for Adults, Teens, and Children

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston Public Library
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Cover Image:
Marilyn Humphries Photography

We Are Pride is a list of books published in the previous year for all ages concerning the diverse experience of the LGBTQ+ community. This printing is part of the Boston Public Library's annual observance of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.